#### **Maryland Historical Trust** Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form Survey No. B-4752 1. Name Historic 509 - 521 South Regester Street and / common 2. Location street & number 509 - 521 South Regester Street city, town Baltimore Maryland 21231 state & zip code county 3. Classification Status Present Use Category Ownership district public X occupied agriculture museum X building(s) X private unoccupied commercial park both work in progress educational X private residence structure site **Public Acquisition** Accessible entertainment religious object X yes: restricted government scientific in process yes: unrestricted being considered industrial transportation not applicable military other: no 4. Owner of Property name street & number telephone state & zip code city, town 5. Location of Legal Description courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber Clarence Mitchell Courthouse street & number folio city, town Baltimore State Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

| title                         |                  |       |        |       |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| date                          | federal          | state | county | local |
| depository for survey records |                  |       |        |       |
| city, town                    | state & zip code |       |        |       |

#### Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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#### 7. Description

| Condition                    |                                    | Check One           | Check One                           |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| excellent<br>_x good<br>fair | deteriorated<br>ruins<br>unexposed | unaltered X altered | X original sitemoved: date of move: |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This east side of the 500 block of S. Regester St. shows a variety of house types dating to the late 1840s. 511 S. Regester St. is a two-story, two-bay wide vernacular Renaissance Revival-style brick house with shed roof and sheet metal cornice built c. 1900 – 1905. The house retains its original brick facade, built in brown, Roman brick which never needed painting. After the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, sheet metal became the predominant material used. By the early years of the 20th century, the most popular form of sheet metal cornice sported ball finials and often classical motifs like swags pressed into the frieze area. Generally, only main street two story houses had decorated friezes-the builder saved money on his small street versions by eliminating them. Likewise, while the main street houses in this style would have marble basements, stringers, lintels, and steps, builders used no marble at all on their small street versions, painting the basements white instead. Main street houses would have stained glass transoms over both the door and the wide first floor window; on the small streets builders offered stained glass only in the door transom. 509 S. Regester St. probably resembled 511, but its entire façade has been covered with formstone.

509 and 511 are two stories in height, 16' 9" and 17'6" wide, and occupy lots 130' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front and rear of the house. The shed roof is capped by a sheet metal cornice consisting of a crown molding set over a plain, deep frieze area and framed by two end brackets with arched tops that rise above the roofline. The lower portion of the bracket is decorated with vertical grooves and it ends in a distinct trefoil pattern. The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, composed of a double row of headers, and plain tympanums. The sills are brick. The original Arts-and-Crafts-style doors do not survive and the original probably stained-glass transoms are also gone. The houses have no basements and each front door is reached by two brick steps.

513-517 S. Regester St. are a group of two-story-gabled-roof houses that have been "modernized" by being covered with formstone. Each house is 14'9", 15', and 14'6"wide respectively and occupies a lot 66'9" deep. No original features remain visible beneath the formstone but it is presumed the door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels and wood sills. All sash are replacement 1/1 windows. The houses sit on very low basements, lit by a single-light transom. The doorways are reached by two or three brick steps. An arched sallyport extends back between each pair of houses.

519 S. Regester St. is a two-story-and-attic house and 521 S. Regester St. is a late Italianate-style house, both being 17'6" wide on lots 75' deep, with a shared middle alleyway leading to the rear yard. The low-pitched gable roof of 519 has a simple brick corbelled cornice decorated with brick modillions. Door and window openings have segmental arches and wood sills. The original four-light attic sash survives but the rest of the windows are filled with replacement 1/1 sash. The replacement door is set beneath a single-light transom. The house has no basement and is reached by two concrete steps. 521 has an elaborate late-Italianate-style wooden cornice consisting of a deep crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets, decorated with grooves, that connect to a lower molding strip, decorated with a row of quarter-round turnings, and which end in a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze area is decorated with circular jig-sawn shapes and famed by a band of cut-work decorations. Jig-sawn ventilator panels decorated the brick frieze area. Door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels composed of a double row of headers, and wood sills. Openings are either boarded over or filled with replacement sash. The house sits on a low basement, lit by a boarded-over transom. The door is reached by two brick steps.

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### 8. Significance

| Period                                                                                 | Area of significance                                                                              | check one & justify                                                                              |                                                                                     |                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| prehistoric<br>1400-1499<br>1500-1599<br>1600-1699<br>1700-1799<br>X 1800-1899<br>1900 | archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications | X community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration industry invention | landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government | religion science sculpture X social/ humanitarian theatre transportation other: specify |
| Specific dates c                                                                       | . 1850 - 1900                                                                                     |                                                                                                  | Builder/Architect                                                                   |                                                                                         |

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

These houses are significant as being located in the oldest part of Fells Point, only a few blocks from the water, and represent an integral part of the history of this National Register district. Slated for demolition in the 1960s as part of the planned East-West highway connection existing segments of I-95 to the north and south of the city, these houses were saved by local preservation activists who created the Fells Point National Register District in 1969.

The row represents four different styles of rowhousing, ranging in date from c. 1850 to 1900. The earliest house is 519, dating c. 1845 – 1855, followed by the group at 513 – 517, dating c. 1855 – 1870. 521 was built c. 1885 and 509 – 511 c. 1900 – 1905. 513 – 517 are a surviving group of extremely modest two-story, gable-roofed houses built in Fells Point in the 1850s and 1860s to serve as inexpensive housing for the influx of newly arrived immigrant families seeking work in harbor-related activities or in the first small factories being built at this time. Most of these houses were held as rental property and most were located along narrow alley streets. In terms of design, the houses are basically the descendants of earlier Federal-style working class housing built in the early decades of the century, but without the usual dormer story of such houses. Because there is no dormer story the roof slope is much less steep in these later versions of the style. The houses are quite tiny, with two small rooms on each floor and a centrally located, tightly winding, narrow staircase.

519 shows the influence of high-style Greek Revival designs in its attic story with small, square windows and resembles many other houses in this area of Fells Point. 511 is an example of the last type of small street house to be built in Baltimore, in the period 1900 – 1909, when a law was passed prohibiting the building of houses on streets less than 40' wide.

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# 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

# 10. Geographic Data

| Acreage of nominated property                 |  |
|-----------------------------------------------|--|
| Quadrangle name                               |  |
| Verbal boundary description and justification |  |

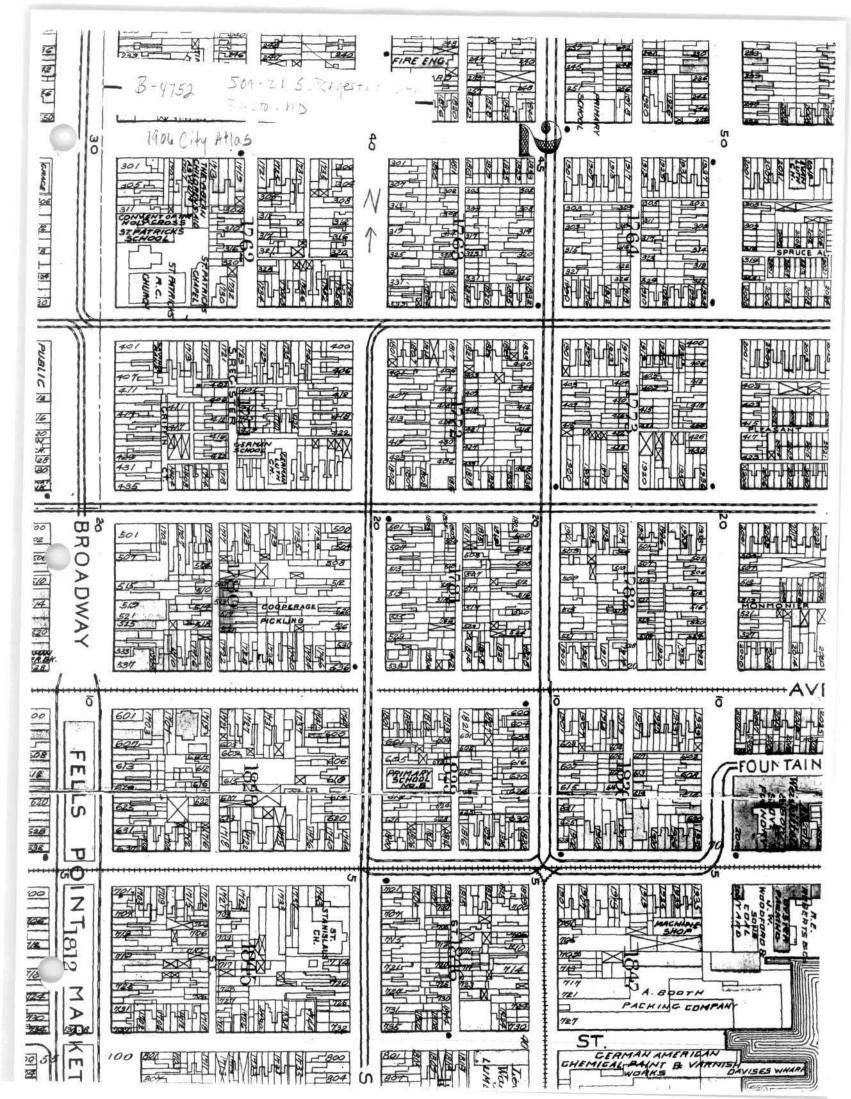
# 11. Form Prepared by

| name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward  |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Organization The Alley House Project | date                            |
| street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave. | telephone                       |
| city, town Baltimore                 | state & zip code Maryland 21204 |

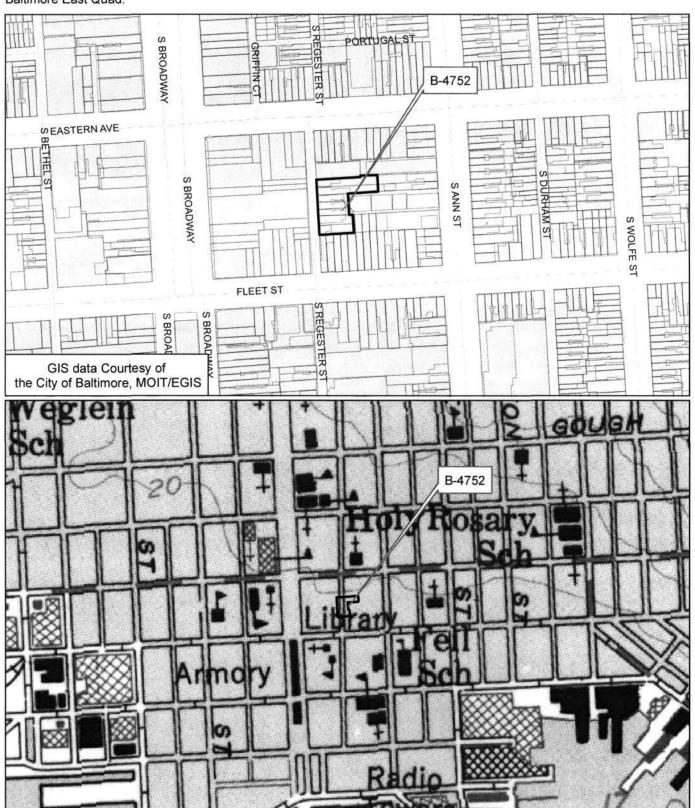
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotate Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement crights.

Return to: DHCP/DHCD Maryland Historical Trust 100 Community Place Crownsville MD 21032-2023



B-4752 509-521 S. Regester Street Block 1780 Lots 066-072 Baltimore City Baltimore East Quad.





509-517 S. Regenter B-4752 509-521 S. Regenter 84 BACTO, MD C.Belfine 1/97 18D [163398 0211 NINN 1 405 APO



B-4752
511 S. Regester St
SALTO MS &
C. Before
11/47
2/4

[15]398 0211 NAN 22



B-4752
509-521 S. Tegeorer St.
C5197 &

ZANTO, HD
C. Setforme
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B-4752 509-521 S. Regener St. E525 BACTO. MD C. Belginne 11/47 4/4